

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01604 051154Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /026 W

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R 041620Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 1604

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP: (RYAN, LEO) EI

SUBJ: CODEL RYAN

1. EMBASSY DUBLIN HELD ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN RYAN AUGUST 27, FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON. WE INFORMED RYAN WE WERE WILLING TO TRY TO MAKE ANY APPOINTMENTS HE DESIRED WITH IRISH DEFENSE FORCE BUT BECAUSE OF VACATION SCHEDULES AND IRISH UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NATO MATTERS, WE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. RYAN READILY AGREED.

2. THE THRUST OF CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S QUESTIONS TO US INVOLVED WHAT HE LABELLED "A HOLE IN THE NORTHERN FLANKS OF NATO" CAUSED BY THE TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF UK TROOPS FOR DUTY IN NORTHERN IRELAND. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO MAKE AN INCREASED TROOP COMMITMENT TO COVER THE SHORTFALL; THIS AT A TIME WHEN THERE WAS RISING PRESSURE IN THE U.S. TO REDUCE TROOP COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE. WE INFORMED RYAN THAT SINCE IRELAND IS A NON-NATO COUNTRY, THIS EMBASSY WAS IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS A WEAKENING OF NATO VIGILANCE AS A RESULT OF SUCH TROOP WITHDRAWALS. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM NATO STRENGTH WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE ONE FOR THE CONGRESSMAN TO DISCUSS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT. RYAN INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT. HE SEEMED SATISFIED AND WE SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND AND CURRENT ATTITUDES OF THE IRISH GOVERNMENT. RENDAHL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUBLIN01604
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750307-0997
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750981/aaaactnv.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL RYAN
TAGS: OREP, EI, (RYAN, LEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006